Cheating of Job Seekers by Sponsors

64. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of job seekers are being cheated by vile sponsors abroad and unscrupulous local agents who are engaged in recruiting persons for overseas employment;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some time back a system was introduced by Government which necessitated clearance by the Embassy of India/Consulate on the genuineness of the employer/ sponsor abroad by way of attestation of the work permit; and

(c) whether Government would reintroduce that system, since it was successful in checking frauds in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) Sporadic complaint relating to cheating of job seekers against the foreign employers and the local recruiting agents are brought to the notice of the Government by the Indian Missions or the intending emigrants.

(b) and (c) The system of grant of emigration clearance to the unskilled workers, including the housemaids, on the basis of attestation of employment documents by the concerned Indian Missions has continued to be in vogue ever since the commencement of the Emigration Act, 1983 and is mandatory even now.

To simplify the emigration procedure, it was decided in October 1991, that in respect of the workers falling in the category of supervisors, skilled and semi-skilled workers, drivers, clerical workers, cooks in hotels/restaurants, the condition of attestation of documents by the Indian Missions need not be insisted upon. Instead, the local recruiting agents are required to furnish a separate affidavit relating to the terms and conditions of employment of the workers with the foreign employers. Wherever considered necessary, separate indemnity bonds are also insisted upon from the local recruiting agents. It is not proposed to re-introduce the system of attestation of documents in respect of these skilled/semi-skilled categories of

workers as the procedure of grant of emigration clearance to them on the basis of affidavits by the local recruiting agents has been found to be by and large satisfactory.

Pakistan Involvement in Plane Hijacking

65. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that intelligence reports probing the IC-814 hijack have credible evidence to prove that Pakistan was actively involved not only in planning the hijack to the last step but also in training and briefing the hijackers; and

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with other foreign countries to declare Pakistan as terrorist State and if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Available evidence with Government points in the direction of Pakistan's complicity in the hijacking of Indian Airline flight IC 814. Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan and reminded it of its obligations under various international conventions, to which Pakistan is party, and to extradite the hijackers to India for due judicial process.

Government have also taken up with a number of countries the matter of Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism against India, of which the hijacking of IC 814 was an example. There is now widespread concern expressed by the international community at the existence, on Pakistani territory, of a large network of terrorist organizations and the support and patronage that they receive from the Government of Pakistan.